

I claim:

1 1. A method of making life cycle plans, each life cycle plan including a  
2 plurality of items, each item including at least one variable affecting the value  
3 of the item, the method comprising:  
4 receiving a first life cycle plan, having a set of items, and for each of the  
5 items, the variables of the item having first values;  
6 creating a second life cycle plan;  
7 receiving a user selection of a first item;  
8 receiving a user-provided value associated with one or more variables of  
9 the first item;  
10 creating a second item, including the variables of the first item and  
11 having the user provided value;  
12 updating the second item to indicate that the first life cycle plan includes  
13 the first item, and the second life cycle plan includes the second item;  
14 computing a result for the second life cycle plan, using the user provided  
15 value.

1 2. A method of making life cycle plans, each life cycle plan including a  
2 plurality of items, each item including at least one variable, the method  
3 comprising:  
4 storing a plurality of life cycle plan records, each life cycle plan record  
5 identifying a life cycle plan;  
6 storing a plurality of items, each item containing one or more variables  
7 having values which contribute to the result of a life cycle plan;  
8 for each item, storing information indicating whether or not the item is  
9 active in each plan;

10 computing a result for a selected life cycle plan using only those items  
11 active in the selected life cycle plan.

1 3. A computer program product for making life cycle plans,  
2 comprising:

3 a computer readable medium storing:  
4 a user interface, coupled to the input/output module, for  
5 providing life cycle plan data to, and requesting life cycle  
6 plan data, from a user; and  
7 an input/output module coupled to the user interface to  
8 receive the life cycle plan data, and storing for each item  
9 state information indicating whether or not the item is  
10 active, in each of a plurality of life cycle plans;  
11 a planning engine, that determines the result of a life cycle  
12 plan using only items that are active in the life cycle plan.

1 4. A system for making life cycle plans, comprising:  
2 a first receiving means for receiving a first life cycle plan having a set of  
3 items, and for each of the items, the variables of the item having first  
4 values;  
5 a first creating means coupled to the first receiving means for creating a  
6 second life cycle plan;  
7 a second receiving means coupled to the first creating means for  
8 receiving a user selection of a first item;  
9 a third receiving means coupled to the second receiving means for  
10 receiving a user-provided value associated with one or more  
11 variables of the first item;

12 a second creating means coupled to the first creating means for creating  
13 a second item, including the variables of the first item and having the  
14 user provided value;

15 an updating means coupled to the second creating means for updating  
16 the second item to indicate that the first life cycle plan includes the  
17 first item, and the second life cycle plan includes the second item;

18 a computing means coupled to the updating means for computing a  
19 result for the second life cycle plan, using the user provided value.

1 5. A system for making life cycle plans, comprising:

2 a user interface including data entry elements for receiving life cycle  
3 planning data from a user; and

4 a planning engine coupled to the user interface for allocating the  
5 planning data to a plurality of items, each item having at least one  
6 variable and being additionally configured to be present in or absent  
7 from each life cycle plan, and for determining a plan result for each  
8 plan using only the items that are present in the plan.

9 6. A system for making life cycle plans, comprising:

10 a user interface including data entry elements for receiving life cycle  
11 planning data from a user; and

12 a planning engine, coupled to the user interface, and configured to  
13 perform the steps of:

14 allocating the planning data to a plurality of items, each item

15 having at least one variable, and each item configured to be

16 present in or absent from each life cycle plan; and

17 determining a plan result for each plan using only the items

18 that are present in the plan.